



RI Department of Health
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www.health.ri.gov

Interim Health Advisory

Date: August 19, 2009
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 in RI

Rhode Island: 202 confirmed positive cases, 76 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths
National Report: 51 states (including DC, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 7,511 hospitalized cases, 477 deaths

Adult seasonal influenza vaccine

Adult vaccine providers should start vaccinating adults for seasonal influenza as soon as they receive initial vaccine shipments. This is a change in the standard practice from past years. Please note, the seasonal influenza vaccine will provide protection for the entire 2009/2010 seasonal influenza season. To receive the seasonal influenza vaccine, providers must enroll in Immunize for Life, HEALTH's Adult Influenza Vaccination Program. To enroll in Immunize for Life, please see <http://www.health.ri.gov/immunization/immunizeforlife.php>. Providers should continue to administer other vaccines, such as the pneumonia vaccine, as recommended. To see which groups are recommended for pneumonia vaccination, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/VIS/downloads/vis-ppv.pdf>.

Communication between providers and HEALTH

HEALTH will continue to use this weekly Provider Briefing to communicate new information to providers during the fall influenza season. HEALTH will also continue to post clinical guidance and advisories on its website, <http://www.health.ri.gov/>. Any guidance that is revised or updated will be date stamped for easier reference. Providers can communicate directly with HEALTH during the fall influenza season using HEALTH's H1N1 email address, h1n1@health.ri.gov. Providers can also give feedback via professional societies or via the lead hospital in their respective HSR.

Managing Patients with ILI

HEALTH expects an increase in patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI) this fall. To prepare for this increase, offices should order adequate supplies of alcohol-based hand gels and make these available to all patients in waiting rooms. They should also ensure that enough surgical masks are available in waiting rooms for patients who present with ILI. If feasible in your office, keep patients with ILI 3-6 feet away from people who don't have ILI.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>